

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 063114
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 EUR-12 COME-00
ISO-00 TRSE-00 OES-07 /053 R

DRAFTED BY IO/AGR:PJBYRNES:DKS
APPROVED BY IO/AGR:PJBYRNES
IO/IBC/BA:WSOUTHWORTH
USDA/FAS:JHALLQUIST
AID/IIA:PSALES

-----075349 111445Z /20

P 110216Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, UN, AORG

SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP ROME (GGR)

REF: ROME 4222

1. WE AGREE WITH GENERAL THRUST OF YOUR SUGGESTED APPROACH
TO FAO DG AND ARE PLEASED WITH RAPID AND TIMELY ACTION
PROPOSED. HAVE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS ON
SPECIFIC POINTS OUTLINED REFTEL:

A. BELIEVE DG SHOULD BE COMPLEMENTED (ENCOURAGED) ON
MOVES TOWARD MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT, ETC., ALTHOUGH GGR
ITSELF SHOULD REALIZE LITTLE TANGIBLE SUCCESS IS YET
EVIDENT. TOO STRONG A REFERENCE TO JIU OR ACC COULD BE
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COUNTERPRODUCTIVE, ALTHOUGH POINT IS VALID.

B. MANAGEMENT-EVALUATION MEASURES NOW IN TRAIN SHOULD
CERTAINLY BE EFFECTIVE TOOLS FOR JUDGING EFFECTIVENESS OF
PROGRAMS AND LOCATING SOURCES OF SAVINGS. HOWEVER,
SINCE THERE IS NO WAY OF REDUCING CURRENT BUDGET LEVEL,
SUGGEST YOU PHRASE THIS LOCATING RESOURCES WHICH MIGHT BE

SHIFTED TO HIGHER PRIORITY ACTIVITIES.

C. REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVING PROGRAM AND PERHAPS LIMITING REGULAR BUDGET INCREASES SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IF YOU CAN ENLIST SUPPORT FOR EXAMINING WHERE EXTRABUDGETARY FUNDS COULD BE SUBSTITUTED FOR REGULAR RESOURCES. AGAIN AGREEMENT WILL NOT BE REACHED IF SEEN BY DG SOLELY AS BUDGET REDUCTION. PROPOSED LOOK AT SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES WHICH MIGHT BE TERMINATED, REDUCED OR FUNDED TO GREATER EXTENT THROUGH EXTRABUDGETARY RESOURCES IS ON TARGET BUT SUGGEST YOU ADD FOURTH CATEGORY, I.E., ACTIVITIES LIKE NUTRITION AND MALNOURISHMENT WHICH ALSO REQUIRE EXTRA REGULAR PROGRAM ASSISTANCE WITHIN OVERALL AVAILABILITIES (I.E., \$211.3 MILLION).

D. PROGRAM AND/OR FINANCE COMMITTEES LOOK AT PROGRAMS WITH BUILT-IN GROWTH FACTORS, E.G., COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES, IS HIGHLY IMPORTANT. IN THIS REGARD, PC RULE III.3 AND FC RULE III.3 ALLOW ANY MEMBER OF RESPECTIVE COMMITTEES TO INSERT ITEMS ON THE INDIVIDUAL TENTATIVE AGENDAS.

2. NOTE: GIVEN NOTICEABLE LACK OF ENTHUSIASM WHICH UK CO-CHAIRMAN HAD FOR INVOLVEMENT IN POSSIBLY DIFFICULT MATTERS WITH DG DURING FAO COUNCIL-CONFERENCE SESSIONS, HOPE YOU WILL STRESS IN DISCUSSION WEEK MARCH 13 THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMPORTANCE OF CONVINCING DG THAT CURRENT GGR VIEWS ARE PRESENTED IN SAME CONSTRUCTIVE VEIN AS STATEMENT OF BELGIUM SPOKESMAN DURING 19TH CONFERENCE.

3. WHETHER GGR DECIDES ON SINGLE OR CO-SPOKESMEN, IT IS IMPORTANT DG KNOWS THAT DEMARCHE HAS OVERALL GGR SUPPORT, THE APPROACH IS SINCERE AND GROUP IS ANXIOUS TO WORK CLOSELY WITH HIM AND HIS ASSOCIATES ON MEASURES TO IMPROVE AND INCREASE FAO'S PERFORMANCE. THIS IMPLIES THAT GROUP ALSO WILL BE AS OPEN TO FRANK DIALOGUE ON APPROACHES FROM HIM. WE WOULD FAR PREFER THAT DG EXPLORE NEW INITIATIVES OR SHIFTS IN EMPHASIS WITH GGR AND/OR PROGRAM COMMITTEE THAN CONFRONT US IN COUNCIL WITH STAFFED OUT AND FULLY DEVELOPED PROPOSALS WHICH ARE DIFFICULT TO DISCUSS AND AMEND IN FAO COUNCIL. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE063114
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PJBVRN:DKS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780109-0911
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780378/aaaacohn.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a7c218c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ROME 4222
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3359997
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GENEVA GROUP ROME (GGR)
TAGS: AORG, FAO, UN
To: ROME
Type: TE
vdkgwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a7c218c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014